

Descriptions of new species of Reptiles from Australia,

collected by Hr. Dämel for the Godeffroy Museum.

By

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Delma orientalis.

Shorter and less slender than *D. fraseri* which inhabits Western and Southern Australia. Scales in sixteen rows (14 in *D. fraseri*); ventrals in 109 pairs. Of the two verticals the anterior is very broad, extending across the whole width of the snout; the posterior is small, pentagonal. The upper labials are rather high; the first pair of lower labials do not form a suture together behind the mental, as in *D. fraseri*, but are widely separate. Two pairs of præanal scutes, without single median scute. Young specimens (250 mm. long) are prettily colored: a brown straight line runs along each series of scales; and each scale is provided with two yellowish dots separated from each other by the longitudinal line. A broad yellowish medial band is edged behind with black. These colors are less distinct in old examples, though more or less visible. The body of the largest example is 200 mm. long, without the tail.

Peak Downs.

Lygosoma heterodactylum.

Allied to *L. australe*, but with the relative lengths of the hind-toes very different.

Habit slender; limbs feeble: length of the fore-limbs a little less than the distance of the ear from the snout; the third and fourth fingers nearly equal in length. Also the third and fourth toes are subequal in length, the fifth being a little longer than the second which is two-thirds of the length of the third. Nasals widely separate; central occipital as long as the præoccipitals. Eye-lid scaly; ear-opening small. Body surrounded by twenty-two series of scales; fifty-four scales in a series between the axils of the fore- and hind-limbs. Two large præanal scales.

Upper parts brownish, finely powdered with black. Abdomen whitish, with irregularly scattered black dots which become more crowded on the throat, and on the lower side of the tail.

Peak Downs. The specimen is 155 mm. long, of which the body takes 65 mm.

Rhodona fragilis.

Scales round the middle of the body in twenty series; sixty-five scales in a longitudinal series between the fore- and hind-limbs. Four large præanal scales; subcaudals not enlarged. Fore-limbs as long as the cleft of the mouth, with three fingers, of which the two outer ones are equal in length, the inner being only one third the length of the outer ones. Hind-limbs longer, with three toes very unequal in length, the inner the shortest, the outer the longest. Nasals in contact with each other; præfrontal single, forming a broad suture with the vertical which is subtriangular, scarcely longer than broad. Præoccipitals confluent; central occipital short, triangular. Six upper labials, the fourth entering the orbit.

Mental broad. Ear entirely hidden. Olive-colored above, with indistinct black lines along the series of scales. Sides blackish, this color being sharply defined towards the back. Abdomen dotted with black; lower part of the tail pure yellowish-white.

Peak Downs. The largest of several specimens is 113 mm. long, the tail measuring 55 mm.

NEPHRURUS (g. n. Geckot).

Upper parts finely granular, with round groups of conical tubercles, the one in the centre being the largest. Toes not dilated, cylindrical, of moderate length, each armed with a non-retractile claw, granular at their lower surface. Pupil vertical. Upper eyelid separated by a fold from the skin of the head, with prominent margin; lower eyelid indicated by a distinct fold. Tail extremely short and small, swollen in its proximal, and thin and tapering in its distal half, the extremity terminating in a globular, kidney-shaped knob.

Nephrurus asper.

Head large and depressed; eyes large; opening of the ear a vertical slit, with the tympanum deeply sunk. All the upper and lateral parts, with the exception of the upper side of the head, are densely covered with the groups of tubercles mentioned above, which, although smaller extend also over the throat, the outer sides of the belly, and the lower parts of the upper arm on the thigh. On the upper surface of the swollen portion of the tail they are arranged in four longitudinal series. The middle of the abdomen and the terminal knob are covered with minute smooth granules. Upper and lower labials low, numerous. Legs slender. Brownish above, with many of the tubercles white; faint indications of narrow whitish transverse lines; head with a widemeshed net-work of blackish lines. Lower parts whitish.

I have known this singular Lizard for many years from photographs sent to me by Mr. Krefft; the specimens were from the Burdekin River, but as they were the property of the Trustees of the Sydney Museum, I had no opportunity of describing the species, until Hr. Dämel brought examples from Peak Downs. The specimen before me is 110 mm. long, the head (to the ear-opening) measuring 28 mm., and the tail 22 mm.

Hoplocephalus damelii.

Scales in seventeen rows. In general habit similar to a *Coronella laevis*. Head depressed, oblong, scarcely distinct from neck. Anterior frontals very small, only about one fourth the size of posterior. Vertical five-sided, longer than broad, with a right angle behind. Occipitals of moderate length rounded behind: two postoculars; the single præocular just reaching the upper surface of the head. Six upper labials. Temporals 2 + 3 + 3: only one is in contact with the postoculars; those of the second and third row small, scalelike. Each occipital is laterally in contact with four scales. Ventrals 171; subcaudals 43.

Upper parts uniform olive-brown, lower pure white; in some of the specimens, especially younger ones, the head and neck are somewhat darker than the rest of the body.

Several specimens were obtained by Hr. Dämel, after whom I have named this species, at Rockhampton and Peak Downs. The largest is 15 inches long, the tail measuring 2½ inches.

Hoplocephalus maculatus (Steindachner).

Denisonia ornata (Krefft) is based on a specimen of this species which was accidentally provided with a separate shield in the loreal region.

Limnodynastes dorsalis (Gray)

= **Limnodynastes (Platyplectrum) dumerilii** (Peters) = **Platyplectrum superciliare** (Kerferstein)
 = **Heliorana superciliaris** (Kerferstein).

This frog ought to be referred to *Platyplectrum*.

Limnodynastes ornatus (Gray).

Closely allied to *Platyplectrum marmoratum*, and to be referred to the same genus.

Chiroleptes brevipalmatus.

Vomerine teeth in two straight transverse series between the choanæ. Skin indistinctly glandular, nearly smooth. Fingers long, tapering; toes short, with a rudimentary web. Brownish-olive above, with a white vertebral line, and with symmetrical brown markings, one of which is a large interocular spot. A brown streak along the canthus rostralis. The hinder part of the thigh uncolored. Lower parts whitish.

Of this species I have seen three specimens: one in the British Museum, from Port Denison; and two collected by Hr. Dämel at Gayndah and Peak Downs. The largest is 40 mm. long; hindleg 59 mm.

Hyla fordii.

Allied to *H. phyllochroa*, but with all the upper (colored) parts granular, like the belly. Snout short, broad, with the canthus rostralis angular. The vomerine teeth form two very small groups between the choanæ. Tympanum entirely covered by the skin. Tongue scarcely notched behind. Male with a large uncolored pouch extending across the sternal region. Disks of the fingers and toes large. The three outer fingers two-thirds webbed; the membrane between the toes extending to the disks. All the upper parts which in a sitting posture are exposed to the light, are bright green; a white line along the canthus rostralis, and another along the lower edge of the fore-arm and lower leg. Thigh colorless. Lower parts white.

Three examples from Rockhampton, purchased of a dealer with other Queensland Reptiles, have been in the British Museum for some time. The largest is 40 mm. long; hind-leg 63 mm.